Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) A bioerodible implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of an eye in an individual, the implant comprising a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent and a bioerodible copolymer without an added release modifier, the implant structured to be placed in the vitreous of the eye and deliver the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.05 μg/ml dexamethasone within about 48 hours and to maintain an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.03 μg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

36. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 35 which includes particles of the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent entrapped within the bioerodible copolymer.

37. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of cortisone, dexamethasone, hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, prednisolone, prednisone, triamcinolone and mixtures thereof.

38. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is dexamethasone.

39. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 35, which is structured to deliver the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.1 μg/ml dexamethasone within about 48 hours and to maintain an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.03 μg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

40. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 35, which is structured to deliver the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.05 μg/ml dexamethasone within about 48 hours and to maintain an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.05 μg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

41. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 35, which is structured to maintain said in vivo concentration for at least about four weeks.

42. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent comprises about 50 to about 80 weight percent of the implant.

43. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 42, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent comprises about 70% by weight of the implant.

44. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the bioerodible copolymer is a polyester.

45. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 44, wherein the bioerodible copolymer is polylactic acid polyglycolic acid (PLGA) copolymer.

46. (Currently amended) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the inflammation mediated condition of the eye to be treated is selected from the group consisting of uveitis, macular edema, ~~acute~~ macular degeneration, retinal detachment, ocular tumors, fungal infections, viral infections, multifocal choroiditis, diabetic uveitis, proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR), sympathetic opthalmia, Vogt Koyanagi-Harada (VKH) syndrome, histoplasmosis, and uveal diffusion.

47. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein the inflammation mediated condition of the eye to be treated is uveitis.

48. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein the inflammation mediated condition of the eye to be treated is proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR).

49. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 47, wherein the inflammation-mediated condition of the eye to be treated is macular edema.

50. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is flucinolone acetonide.

51. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the individual whose eye is to be treated is a human.

52. (Previously presented) An implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of the eye in an individual, comprising a solid body structured for placement into the vitreous of the eye, said body comprising particles of a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent entrapped within a bioerodible polymer without an added release modifier, whereby said agent is released from the body by erosion of the polymer, and whereby said agent is delivered to the vitreous at a rate and for a time sufficient to reach an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.05 μg/ml dexamethasone within about 48 hours, and to maintain an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.03 μg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

53. (Previously presented) An implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of the eye in an individual, comprising a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent and a bioerodible copolymer without an added release modifier, wherein the implant is structured for placement in the vitreous of the eye and delivers the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.2 μg/ml dexamethasone within about 6 hours and to maintain an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.01 μg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

54. (Previously presented) The implant of claim 53, which includes particles of the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent entrapped within the bioerodible copolymer.

55. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of cortisone, dexamethasone, hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, prednisolone, prednisone, triamcinolone and mixtures thereof.

56. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is dexamethasone.

57. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 53, which is structured to deliver the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.4 μg/ml dexamethasone within about 6 hours and to maintain an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.01 μg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

58. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 53, which is structured to deliver the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.2 μg/ml dexamethasone within about 6 hours and to maintain an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.1 μg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

59. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 53, which is structured to maintain said concentration for at least about four weeks.

60. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 53, which is structured to maintain said concentration for at least about six weeks.

61. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent comprises about 50 to about 80 weight percent of the implant.

62. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 61, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent comprises about 70% by weight of the implant.

63. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 61, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent comprises about 50% by weight of the implant.

64. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the bioerodible copolymer is a polyester.

65. (Previously presented) The implant of claim 53, wherein the bioerodible copolymer is polylactic acid polyglycolic acid (PLGA) copolymer.

66. (Currently amended) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the inflammatory mediated condition of the eye to be treated is selected from the group consisting of uveitis, macular edema, ~~acute~~ macular degeneration, retinal detachment, ocular tumors, fungal infections, viral infections, multifocal choroiditis, diabetic uveitis, proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR), sympathetic opthalmia, Vogt Koyanagi-Harada (VKH) syndrome, histoplasmosis, and uveal diffusion.

67. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 66, wherein the inflammation-mediated condition of the eye to be treated is uveitis.

68. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 66 wherein the inflammation-mediated condition of the eye to be treated is proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR).

69. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the inflammation-mediated condition of the eye to be treated is macular edema.

70. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is flucinolone acetonide.

71. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the individual whose eye is to be treated is a human.

72. (Previously presented) An implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of the eye in an individual, comprising: a bioerodible solid body structured for placement in the vitreous of the eye, said body comprising particles of a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent entrapped within a bioerodible polymer, whereby said agent is released from the body by erosion of the polymer, and whereby the implant delivers said agent to the vitreous at a rate and for a time sufficient to reach an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.2 μg/ml dexamethasone within about 6 hours, and to maintain an in vivo concentration equivalent to at least about 0.01 μg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

73. (Previously presented) A solid bioerodible implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of the eye,

consisting essentially of steroidal anti-inflammatory agent particles entrapped within a bioerodible copolymer, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent makes up between about 50% by weight and about 80% by weight of the implant and the total mass of the implant is about 800-1100 μg, and wherein the implant releases at least about 10% of the drug load within 1 week when measured under infinite sink conditions in vitro.

74. (Previously presented) The implant of claim 73 wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is dexamethasone and the copolymer is polylactic acid polyglycolic acid (PLGA) polymer.

75. (Previously presented) A solid bioerodible implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of the eye, the implant consisting essentially of: dexamethasone particles entrapped within a polylactic acid polyglycolic acid (PLGA) copolymer matrix, wherein the dexamethasone makes up between about 50 percent by weight and about 80 percent by weight of the implant and the total mass of the implant is about 800-1100 μg, and wherein the implant releases at least about 15% of the dexamethasone within 2 weeks when measured under infinite sink conditions in vitro.

76. (Previously presented) The solid bioerodible implant according to claim 75, wherein the implant releases at least about 20% of the dexamethasone within 2 weeks when measured under infinite sink conditions in vitro.

77. (Previously presented) The solid bioerodible implant according to claim 76, wherein the implant releases at least

about 40% of the dexamethasone within 2 weeks when measured under infinite sink conditions in vitro.

78. (New) The implant according to claim 46, wherein the inflammation mediated condition of the eye to be treated is macular degeneration.

79. (New) The implant according to claim 78, wherein the inflammation mediated condition of the eye to be treated is acute macular degeneration.

80. (New) The implant according to claim 66, wherein the inflammation mediated condition of the eye to be treated is macular degeneration.

81. (New) The implant according to claim 80, wherein the inflammation mediated condition of the eye to be treated is acute macular degeneration.